

Sec 1 Russia
 x Ag 5 Field
 x Pers 2 M. Dodd
 X Pers 2 H. Massing

Hede Massing, former wife of Gerhart Eisler and Communist courier who belonged to the Noel Field cell in Washington, writes

An Open Letter to Martha Dodd

Dear Martha Dodd:

You haven't made the headlines for some time now. But I have not forgotten you. In fact I followed you along your way to the Communist Holy Land from the very start. I was amazed to find you so gullible. I had thought of you as cool and shrewd. But when I learned that you and your husband had acquired—and for a handsome sum at that—Uruguayan passports, I knew that you were not. That mistake comes from not having read anti-Communist literature. You could have profited a lot from my book, *This Deception*. Oh, I know you've never heard of it. Which is too bad, because you could have learned from it that never, never must you commit the fundamental mistake of giving up your American citizenship! For now the comrades have you!

And they know that they haven't very much, at that. Nothing they really care for.

As you will learn, if you have not learned it already, they are matter-of-fact, unsentimental people. Even for their successful agents of foreign birth they feel only polite contempt. But for one who has failed—in fact has been a nuisance; is of no further use—there is just plain, unadulterated, open contempt. And your case is even worse—I hate to tell you this. You and your bedraggled husband have money. You are rich. You could have stayed in the Free World and enjoyed life—and you did not fight for it, you gave up. You let yourself be brought “home” to slaughter.

That makes you a stupid ex-agent. Unforgivably, criminally

stupid in the eyes of every one of the comrades who will be assigned to “serve” you. To them you are the worst offender, the traitor, the betrayer of what each one of them dreams about—a life on the other side of the Iron Curtain. You threw it away. Such stupidity they cannot fathom.

To an MVD agent—to any one of them—this is perversion. The Russians are simple people. Perversions they do not like. So there you are, poor Martha, now in a hostile world, surrounded by people who think you ridiculous and really don't want you. How you must need a friend!

I have an idea. Perhaps you should ask for a transfer to Budapest and a job as assistant to Noel Field. He is in charge of translations for Gosisdatt, the State publishing firm. Not as important a job as he held in the State Department? Now Martha, that is the wrong approach: every job in the Communist orbit is important!

You would like Noel—and he could make use of your literary abilities. And Comrade Stern might be less in your way. You could arrange that with Noel. He is very understanding.

Well, here's wishing you good luck.

Too bad nobody told you in time what a straight dealer Robert Morris of the Internal Security Subcommittee really is, not to mention Edgar Hoover's crowd. You could have had yourself a whale of a time, with headlines, exclusive interviews and all. You did choose the wrong side, you really did!

HED E MASSING